

MINUTES of meeting, June 15, 2016

Board Room, Department of Public Works (DPW), 20 Municipal Way

Present: Diane Campbell, chair; David Wright, vice chair; members Paul Criswell and Raina McManus; project manager Peter Jackson; Town staff Dave Hickey and Mike Pakstis.

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Minutes: Draft minutes of the meeting of May 11, 2016 had been distributed previously. MOVED Paul, SECONDED Raina to approve the minutes as submitted. PASSED unanimously.

Construction report: Peter Jackson said that another section of path had been installed between the wet meadow near Wellesley Avenue and Grove Street. In addition to the main construction staging area at Grove Street, a smaller area will operate at Leighton Street until the fall, supporting work on the four footbridges nearby. Peter said he spoke to the resident most visually affected by the new site, and she was understanding about why it was needed.

Path installation and streambank reinforcement at the State Street parking lot are complete; so far, motorists have been obeying signs asking them not to block the path with their bumpers when they park. Adjustments to the path route have included going around an unusually-shaped dogwood tree and a gentle curve to lessen the grade approaching Cameron Street. An asphalt spreader is laying down the path surface at a rate of 84 feet of path per truckload of crushed stone.

Other construction work includes drainage improvements at Vane Street and dewatering at Brook Street for structural repairs to the twin culverts. The wet meadow is now growing grass, and water still forms ponds in it; as more vegetation moves in, increased transpiration will relieve the ponding.

The two interpretive signs previously approved by the committee have been delivered, and will be installed as soon as their granite posts arrive. They are the last project items to be funded by the Section 319 grant; a final invoice will be submitted to the grant administrator in mid-July.

With the summer construction season under way, Dave Hickey said he expects to coordinate DPW drainage work at Cottage Street with park project work in the area. Peter said he would take care of outreach to residents and work with police on traffic control at the site.

Project schedule: Peter said all hard construction on the project would be complete before winter sets in this year. Paving and other details are expected to be completed in spring 2017.

Maintenance: Peter said the contractor, not DPW, is responsible for repairing damage to the path surface caused by winter conditions or snow plowing. Peter and the contractor have identified areas in need of work and discussed how to prevent damage next winter. Peter has also walked the park with arborist Cricket Vlass and NRC director Brandon Schmitt to check the progress of plantings and maintenance.

Trails Committee walk: On June 4, TC member Denny Nackoney led a walk on the Brook Path between Cameron Street and Paine Street. David Wright went along and interpreted the project work for the walkers. David said their comments on the project were almost entirely positive. One resident expressed regret at the holes in the canopy caused by tree removal; in response, Denny noted the invasive character of Norway maples, and David explained that the project was “catching up” with the normal process of tree replacement and that new plantings would eventually fill the holes. In other comments, Peter said some residents found the root wads in the stream unsightly; he could trim them, he said, but then they wouldn’t perform their function as well. Diane said she had heard many compliments paid to the project workers for their cooperative attitude and willingness to explain their work to residents.

Outreach: Paul Criswell said that, through his efforts, Peter Jackson has been invited to address the Wellesley Club about the project at a dinner meeting in November 2016 or January 2017.

Next meeting: The next meeting of FBPC will take place at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 28, 2016 in the Board Room of the Department of Public Works, 20 Municipal Way.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Wright, Vice Chair